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FIEC/ EIC Press Release

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The European Construction Industry asks for "moral and organisational reciprocity" in the world-wide fight against bribery and corruption.

FIEC and EIC, defending the interests of European construction firms at European and international level, are committed to actively contributing to anti-corruption/ anti-bribery policies and measures world-wide, such as the forthcoming world-wide standard on "anti-bribery management systems" (ISO 37001, being drafted by ISO PC/278).

Preparing for the final meeting of ISO PC/278 in Mexico in June, FIEC/ EIC representative Per Nielsen (S/ NCC) stresses that "forthcoming guidelines should clarify this 'moral and organisational reciprocity' as one of the necessary conditions for success in practice."

Explaining the rationale of this request, Per Nielsen points out: "Considering that by definition, corruption/ bribery needs at least 2 consenting parties, all these efforts would not achieve the envisaged aims, if measures such as the forthcoming ISO standard were not used by all public and private bodies alike. In other words, a client requiring from contractors proof of ISO anti-bribery management systems in place should show his own commitment and credibility by including the corresponding proof for his own organisation."

Per Nielsen adds: "On this basis, I think it would be logical to request International Financing Institutions and Procuring Agencies having a certified ISO anti-bribery management system in place to require in their procurement procedures that tenderers also be ISO 37001 certified, in order to be qualified for submitting bids. We will address this specific aspect with our member federations in the discussions on how to make best use of this new ISO standard."

EIC European International Contractors (EIC) was founded in 1970 and has been registered since 1984 as a legally independent business association under German law in Berlin, Germany. EIC has as its members construction industry federations from 15 European countries which are directly or indirectly affiliated to the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) in Brussels.

FIEC is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 29 National Member Federations in 26 countries (23 EU, Switzerland, Norway and Turkey) construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. small and medium-sized enterprises as well as "global players", carrying out all forms of building and civil engineering activities